



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

MAR 8 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (M&RA)
DIRECTOR, JOINT STAFF
DIRECTOR, HEALTH AND SAFETY, US COAST GUARD

SUBJECT Traumatic Brain Injury

Traumatic brain injury (TBI), whether mild, moderate, or severe, is a significant health concern for the Department. Identification, treatment and prognosis of TBI is an emerging science. Many affected with mild TBI recover fully, but some have persistent symptoms. The full extent of clinical symptoms and long term effects is unknown. However, we will lean forward to capture data that will contribute to a better understanding of TBI, especially in terms of its identification, treatment, and long term effects.

It is my intent to integrate the outstanding work completed in this area by the Military Departments into a comprehensive Department of Defense (DoD) program to identify, treat, document, and follow up those who have suffered a TBI while either deployed or in garrison. This program will establish common TBI tools and clinical practice guidelines for screening, assessment, treatment, and follow-up. In addition, it will address TBI surveillance, transition to non-DoD care, long-term care, education and training, and research.

Colonel Tony Carter is my point of contact, and he may be reached at (703) 575-2674 or tony.carter@tma.osd.mil. To ensure success in this effort, please identify your Service expert point of contact by March 9, 2007 to work toward shaping this important program.


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